

SENATE RESOLUTION 154

By Finney

A RESOLUTION urging the Governor of the State of Tennessee to earmark all tobacco settlement funds to fund educational programs designed to prevent tobacco usage among Tennessee's youth.

WHEREAS, since publication of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Tobacco and Health, the smoking rates of adults have been significantly reduced, especially in males; and

WHEREAS, success has also been achieved in changing attitudes toward smoking in public places, widespread perception of tobacco use as a health hazard, and passage of numerous laws restricting tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of smoking rates among young people has not been as successful, however; tobacco use among high school students has remained alarmingly prevalent, and, in some circumstances, the use of tobacco has increased, most notably the use of smokeless tobacco by young males; and

WHEREAS, if tobacco use among youths is not significantly reduced, the next generation of adults will bear the burden of tobacco-caused diseases and costs for the health care related of these diseases; and

WHEREAS, tobacco-caused diseases are completely preventable; education has proved to be effective in adults and should also be effective in youths; and

WHEREAS, in November 1998, the multi-state tobacco settlement between certain cigarette manufacturers and states, the so-called Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, provided \$246 billion over a twenty-five-year period to address the enormous public health problem caused by tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control recommends that Tennessee appropriate between \$32.23 million and \$89.08 million annually to prevent smoking among youths; and

WHEREAS, to date, however, Tennessee joins four other states and the District of Columbia as being the only jurisdictions to spend absolutely none of their tobacco settlement monies for anti-smoking educational programs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is strongly urged to follow the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control's recommendation and spend part of the tobacco settlement funds that Tennessee receives on intensive educational attempts to prevent tobacco use among youths; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we strongly urge the Governor to earmark part of the tobacco settlement funds to fund intensive educational programs to prevent tobacco use among youths.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, and the Commissioner of Health.